

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : E. Prats
 M. SIEIJN et al :
 Serial No.: 402,604 : Group: 1651
 Filed: October 22, 1999 :
 For: ISOLATION...BIOMASS :

600 Third Avenue
 New York N.Y. 10016
 November 12, 2001

RULE 116 AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the office action of June 20, 2001, please amend this application as follows:

Claim 1 (twice amended) A process for the isolation of crystalline carotenoid compound from microbial biomass comprising disrupting the microbial cell walls, separating cellular debris from the resulting carotenoid crystal containing residue, washing carotenoid crystal containing residue with a solvent to remove lipid, suspending the obtained carotenoid crystals in water to float the crystals and remove biomass debris, recovering the crystals and, optionally, further purifying the crystals.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the proposed amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein. Entry of the amendment is requested under the provisions of Rule 116 as it puts the application in better condition for